Government have formulated a number of new schemes for the welfare of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the same are likely to be introduced; and

(d) to what extent farmers are likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (d) Some of the important new schemes which have bearing on the Welfare of the farmers are as follows:–

(i) Special Foodgrains Production Programme was introduced during 1988-89 in 14 States.

(ii) Under the New Policy on Seed Development effective from 1st October, 1988 the thrust is to secure for the farmer high quality seeds and increase his farm yields and income.

(iii) During 1988-89 a discount of 7.5% on the notified consumer price of urea has been allowed. To popularise the use of fertilisers, a scheme for opening additional outlets in all the 446 districts has been sanctioned.

(iv) The rates of interest on agricultural loans have been reduced with effect from 1st March, 1988.

(v) The Million Wells Scheme has been launched during 1988-89 to provide open irrigation wells free of cost of small, marginal, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes farmers who are below the poverty line.

(vi) A Group Life Insurance Scheme has also been introduced from 1st April, 1988 for Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) families which includes small and marginal farmers.

Relief to Drought Hit farm Labours of Chhattesgarh in M.P.

1271. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a mass exodus of farm labours from the drought hit Chhattesgarh region in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government had been asked to provide help to meet the drought conditions in the region; and

(c) if so, to what extent the aid was provided by the Centre to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) According to the State Government there has been no mass exodus of farm labours from the drought hit Chhattesgarh region in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Government have submitted a memorandum seeking central assistance for drought relief.

(c) A Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 10 crores has been released to the State Government for undertaking emergent relief works. An additional amount of Rs. 12.69 crores has been released under Rural Landless Labourers Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) to the State for generating employment.

Mushrooming of Unauthorised Commercial Complexes in Delhi

1272. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had undertaken an intensive drive to check mushrooming of unauthorised commercial complexes in the Capital;